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REPORTS ON THE SCIENTIFIC RESULTS OF THE EXPEDITION TO THE EASTERN TROPICAL PACIFIC, IN CHARGE OF ALEXANDER AGASSIZ, BY THE U. S. FISH COMMISSION STEAMER "ALBATROSS," FROM OCTOBER, 1904, TO MARCH, 1905, LIEUT. COMMANDER L. M. GARRETT, U. S. N., COMMANDING.

II.

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW GENUS OF ISOPODS, TYPICAL OF A PECULIAR FAMILY.

BY HARRIET RICHARDSON.

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WITH ONE PLATE.

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No. 6. — *Reports on the Scientific Results of the Expedition to the Eastern Tropical Pacific, in charge of Alexander Agassiz, by the U. S. Fish Commission Steamer "Albatross" from October, 1904, to March, 1905*, Lieut. Commander L. M. Garrett, U. S. N., *Commanding*.

II.

Description of a new genus of Isopods, typical of a peculiar family.

By Harriet Richardson.

In the recent voyage, 1904–05, of the Steamer "Albatross" to the Eastern Pacific a very peculiar Isopod was collected, which does not seem to belong to any of the known families of the order. Although it was found free and unattached, it is probably a parasite, owing to the fact that it presents marked degeneration in having lost all the abdominal appendages. It is also without eyes and has prehensile legs. I have made it the type of a new family, Colypuridae.

A few years ago,[1] Giard and Bonnier described a peculiar Isopod, *Rhabdochirus incertus*, which also lacks abdominal appendages. The abdomen, however, is not inserted under and covered by the last thoracic segment, as is characteristic of the present type. *Rhabdochirus incertus* also differs in having all seven segments of the thorax free, well developed antennae, and a differentiation in the thoracic legs, which are not prehensile, the three anterior pairs and the seventh pair being very much shorter, about half as long as the fourth, fifth, and sixth pairs. Giard and Bonnier were unable to place it in any of the known families of the order. I propose for this form the family Rhabdochiridae.

COLYPURIDAE.

Colypurus, gen. nov.

Head coalesced with the first thoracic segment. The following six thoracic segments free, the first four free segments increasing gradually in width backward. Seventh thoracic segment, or sixth free segment, longer than the others and rounded posteriorly.

[1] Bull. Soc. Ent. France, 1898, No. 9, pp. 198–200.

Abdomen unsegmented, conically tapered, reduced in size, devoid of appendages, and placed under the last thoracic segment, so that, in a dorsal view, only the extremity appears below the seventh thoracic segment.

All seven pairs of legs present, and prehensile in character.

Antennae rudimentary, composed of only a few articles and almost inconspicuous, being placed on the ventral side of the head and invisible in a dorsal view.

Colypurus agassizi, sp. nov.

Body gradually increasing in width backward from the first to the fourth free thoracic segment. The head is 2mm. wide, the first free thoracic segment is 3 mm. in width, and the fourth free segment measures 4 mm. The length of the body is 5 mm.

The head is produced in the middle anteriorly in a rounded lobe. The sides of the head are also expanded in rounded lobes. Four knob-like bodies are situated in a transverse series on the dorsal surface of the head, the two central ones being largest; the lateral knobs are placed one on each lateral lobe. The antennae are rudimentary, inconspicuous, composed of only a few articles, and not visible in a dorsal view. The tips of the mandibles project from the apex of the oral cone.

The first segment of the thorax is coalesced with the head and bears the first pair of legs. The following five segments are more or less subequal in length, but increase gradually in width to the fourth free segment. The last thoracic segment is longer than any of the preceding segments and is posteriorly rounded. Each thoracic segment bears a pair of prehensile legs, there being seven pairs altogether.[1]

The abdomen is inserted beneath the last thoracic segment, is conically tapered, unsegmented, and devoid of appendages.

Only one specimen was collected in the Eastern Pacific by the Steamer "Albatross" in 1904–05 at station 4621. Lat. north 6° 36′; Long. west 81° 44′, off Mariato Point.

The type is in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy.

[1] In the specimen the third leg on the right side is broken off about the middle.